

BP 4030 Academic Freedom

Reference:

Title 5, Section 51023; Accreditation Standard II.A.7.

Institutions of higher education are conducted for the common good and not to further the interest of either the individual instructor or the institution as a whole. The common good depends upon the free search for truth and its free exposition. In order to assure the academic integrity of the teaching-learning process, faculty distinguish between personal conviction and professionally accepted views in a discipline. They present data and information fairly and objectively.

1. The instructor is entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of the results, subject to the adequate performance of his/her other academic duties; but research for pecuniary return should be based upon an understanding with the authorities of the institution.
2. The instructor is entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing his/her subject, but he/she should be careful not to introduce into his/her teaching controversial matter which has no relation to his/her subject. Limitations of academic freedom because of religious or other aims of the institution should be clearly stated in writing at the time of the appointment.
3. The college or university instructor is a citizen, a member of a learned profession, and an officer of an educational institution. When he/she speaks or writes as a citizen, he/she should be free from institutional censorship or discipline, but his/her special position in the community imposes special obligations. As a person of learning and an educational officer, he/she should remember that the public may judge his/her profession and his/her institution as his/her utterances. Hence he/she should at all times be accurate, should exercise appropriate restraint, should respect other's opinions, and should make every effort to indicate that he/she is not an institutional spokesperson.